



# Government of the Northwest Territories Influenza Update

17 December 2009

## Flu Activity this Week

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H1N1 flu activity is declining and NWT public health officials are preparing for potential outbreaks of seasonal flu. NWT residents are reminded that they should get their seasonal flu shot to help protect themselves and their families.

There were no new hospital admissions for H1N1 influenza last week. Since mid-July 2009, a total of 52 people have been admitted to hospital with lab-confirmed H1N1. A total of 7 people were admitted to the ICU. The NWT had one H1N1 related death in an individual with chronic medical conditions.

The Health and Social Services Flu Line received 1 call last week and has now been officially discontinued. NWT residents with questions about the flu can continue to call the Health Line at 1-888-255-1010.

Beginning in the last week of September, the Flu Line received a total of 1,368 calls and made 427 referrals. Call volume peaked the week of October 26-30, with a total of 421 calls and 105 referrals.

## Developments/Announcements this Week

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The H1N1 vaccine will be available to students returning from the south at a drop-in flu clinic being held at the Yellowknife Public Health Unit on Tuesday, December 22 from 1:00-4:00 p.m. Students returning to other communities can get the shot at local public health clinics or community health centres.

The H1N1 mass vaccination campaign for the NWT has ended, but the vaccine is still available at local public health clinics and community health centres. People who receive their seasonal flu shot can also get the H1N1 shot if they have not previously done so.

**Family members with infants less than 6 months are strongly urged to get vaccinated against both H1N1 and seasonal influenza since infants less than 6 months are not eligible for H1N1 or seasonal flu vaccine.**

Children who have already received the H1N1 flu shot do not need to receive a second shot.

The H1N1 vaccine was made available in every community of the NWT and the GNWT had enough doses to vaccinate every NWT resident who wanted the shot. A total of 26,432 NWT residents – 62% of our population – received the H1N1 vaccine. This compares to a vaccination rate of 25% nationally.



While 75% coverage is ideal for combating the spread of H1N1 in our communities, the decline in flu activity in the NWT can be attributed to the rapid uptake of the H1N1 vaccine here.

## **Public Information**

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Minister of Health and Social Services Sandy Lee and Chief Public Health Officer Dr. Kami Kandola held a news conference on Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup> to provide a review of the NWT's H1N1 activities and statistics to date.

This week will mark the end of the *GNWT Influenza Update*. With flu activity declining substantially, the need for regular updates has also declined. The update may be re-started if H1N1 activity in the NWT begins to rise again.

A full range of information on the H1N1 vaccine, preventing the flu, caring for the sick and taking steps to protect individuals will continue to be available on the Health and Social Services website at <http://www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca>.

## **For more information**

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For more information about protecting yourself from the flu or about the GNWT's H1N1 plans and activities, please visit the Health and Social Services website at <http://www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca>. You may also call the Health Line at 1-888-255-1010.







# Government of the Northwest Territories Influenza Update

9 December 2009

## Flu Activity this Week

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H1N1 flu activity is now declining and NWT public health officials are preparing for potential outbreaks of seasonal flu. NWT residents are reminded that they should get their seasonal flu shot to help protect themselves and their families.

There was one new hospital admission of a NWT resident hospitalized with H1N1 influenza last week, for a total of 52 lab-confirmed H1N1 hospitalizations to date, of which 7 were admitted to ICU. The NWT has had one H1N1 related death to date in an individual with chronic medical conditions.

The Health and Social Services Flu Line received 7 calls last week. The Flu Line continues to refer people needing further care to health centres or clinics. The majority of people suffering with the flu in the NWT have experienced mild to moderate symptoms and have recovered on their own.

## Developments/Announcements this Week

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~~The H1N1 mass vaccination campaign has ended. However, local public health clinics and community health centres will continue to offer the vaccine for the next few weeks. People who receive their seasonal flu shot can also get their H1N1 shot if they have not previously done so.~~

**We are strongly urging family members with infants less than 6 months to get vaccinated against both H1N1 and seasonal influenza since infants less than 6 months are not eligible for H1N1 or seasonal flu vaccine.**

In NWT, we have vaccinated 25,654 residents, or 60% of the NWT's population. Approximately 75% vaccine coverage is our target goal to optimally combat the spread of H1N1 in our communities. However, we can attribute the current decline in flu activity to rapid uptake of H1N1 vaccine in the NWT.

## Public Information

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Information about the H1N1 influenza vaccine has been posted to the HSS website, along with myths and facts about the influenza vaccine.

A full range of information on preventing the flu, caring for the sick and taking steps to protect individuals is available on the Health and Social Services website at <http://www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca>.

## **For more information**

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The *Government of the Northwest Territories Influenza Update* is distributed weekly and includes the most recent information on flu activity in the NWT.

For more information about protecting yourself from the flu or about the GNWT's H1N1 plans and activities, please visit the Health and Social Services website at <http://www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca>. You may also call the Health Line at 1-888-255-1010.



# Government of the Northwest Territories Influenza Update

2 December 2009

## Flu Activity this Week

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H1N1 flu activity is now declining and NWT public health officials are preparing for potential outbreaks of seasonal flu. NWT residents are reminded that they should get their seasonal flu shot to help protect themselves and their families.

Active H1N1 cases have been identified in 26 of the 33 NWT communities. H1N1 is the only influenza strain circulating in NWT communities at this time.

There have been no new hospital admissions, but one late report of an NWT resident hospitalized with H1N1 influenza was received last week, for a total of 51 lab-confirmed H1N1 hospitalizations to date of which 6 were admitted to ICU. The NWT has had one H1N1 related death to date in an individual with chronic medical conditions.

The Health and Social Services Flu Line received 19 calls last week. The Flu Line continues to refer people needing further care to health centres or clinics. The majority of people suffering with the flu in the NWT are experiencing mild to moderate symptoms and have been recovering on their own.

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## Developments/Announcements this Week

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In NWT, we have vaccinated 25,335 residents against H1N1, or 59% of the NWT's population. Approximately 75% vaccine coverage is our target goal to optimally combat the spread of H1N1 in our communities. However, we can attribute the current decline in flu activity to rapid uptake of H1N1 vaccine in the NWT.

**We are strongly urging family members with infants less than 6 months to get vaccinated against both H1N1 and seasonal influenza since infants less than 6 months are not eligible for H1N1 or seasonal flu vaccine.**

The H1N1 mass vaccination campaign has ended. However, local public health clinics and community health centres will continue to offer the vaccine for the next few weeks. People who receive their seasonal flu shot can also get their H1N1 shot if they have not previously done so.

There have been very few cases of people exhibiting unusual reactions to the flu shot. Out of 25,000 shots administered, only 34 people have experienced uncommon side effects. There have been no cases of severe allergic reactions (anaphylactic reactions) to the shot.



## **Public Information**

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Chief Public Health Officer Dr. Kami Kandola held a press conference on November 25, 2009 to update media on current flu activity, vaccine uptake and flu-related hospitalizations to date.

Dr. Kandola also presented to Territorial Sport Organisation at the Sport North Forum Nov 28, 2009. A copy of her presentation can be found on the Department's website.

Information about the H1N1 influenza vaccine has been posted to the HSS website, along with myths and facts about the influenza vaccine.

A full range of information on preventing the flu, caring for the sick and taking steps to protect individuals is available on the Health and Social Services website at <http://www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca>.

## **For more information**

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The *Government of the Northwest Territories Influenza Update* is distributed weekly and includes the most recent information on flu activity in the NWT.

For more information about protecting yourself from the flu or about the GNWT's H1N1 plans and activities, please visit the Health and Social Services website at <http://www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca>.

You may also call the Flu Line at 1-888-920-3026 or the Health Line at 1-888-255-1010





# Government of the Northwest Territories Influenza Update

17 November 2009

## Flu Activity this Week

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Public health officials are reporting the NWT is experiencing the second wave of H1N1 flu activity. However, we have reached our peak. Flu activity is now declining.

Active cases have been identified in 26 of the 33 NWT communities. H1N1 is the only influenza strain circulating in NWT communities at this time.

There have been no new hospital admissions but two late reports of NWT residents hospitalized with H1N1 influenza last week, for a total of 48 lab-confirmed H1N1 hospitalizations to date of which 6 were admitted to ICU.

The Health and Social Services Flu Line received 75 calls last week. The Flu Line continues to refer people needing further care to health centres or clinics. The majority of people suffering with the flu in the NWT are experiencing mild to moderate symptoms and have been recovering on their own.

Schools have seen higher rates of absenteeism from this outbreak, but all NWT schools have remained open. ~~Self-isolation continues to be the best way to reduce the spread of the flu between people.~~ Normal social contact between healthy people does not present an increased risk of spreading the flu.

There have been no known H1N1-related deaths in the NWT to date.

## Developments/Announcements this Week

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Over 24,000 NWT residents, or 56% of the NWT's population, have received the H1N1 vaccine to date. Approximately 75% vaccine coverage is our target goal to optimally combat the spread of H1N1 in our communities. However, we can attribute the current decline in flu activity to rapid uptake of H1N1 vaccine in the NWT.

The H1N1 mass vaccination campaign ended last week. However, local public health clinics and community health centres will continue to offer the vaccine for the next few weeks. The most up-to-date schedule is available on the Health and Social Services website.

There have been very few cases of people exhibiting unusual reactions to the flu shot. Out of 24,000 shots administered, only 21 people have experienced uncommon side effects. There have been no cases of true anaphylactic reactions to the shot.





New guidelines on vaccinating children aged 3-9 against H1N1 were issued by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC). Children in this age group require only one half-dose of the adjuvanted vaccine and will not need to get a second shot. Children aged 6 months to under 3 years may need a second shot pending clinical trial data.

## **Public Information**

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Chief Public Health Officer Dr. Kami Kandola held a press conference on November 12, 2009 to update media on current flu activity, vaccine uptake and flu-related hospitalizations to date.

Information about the H1N1 influenza vaccine has been posted to the HSS website, along with myths and facts about the influenza vaccine.

A full range of information on preventing the flu, caring for the sick and taking steps to protect individuals is available on the Health and Social Services website at <http://www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca>.

## **For more information**

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The *Government of the Northwest Territories Influenza Update* is distributed weekly and includes the most recent information on flu activity in the NWT.

For more information about protecting yourself from the flu or about the GNWT's H1N1 plans and activities, please visit the Health and Social Services website at <http://www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca>.

You may also call the Flu Line at 1-888-920-3026 or the Health Line at 1-888-255-1010





# Government of the Northwest Territories Influenza Update

10 November 2009

## **Flu Activity this Week**

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Public health officials are reporting the NWT is experiencing the second wave of H1N1 flu activity. Active cases have been identified in 26 of the 33 NWT communities. H1N1 is the only influenza strain circulating in NWT communities at this time.

There have been 6 new cases of NWT residents hospitalized with H1N1 influenza last week, for a total of 46 lab-confirmed H1N1 hospitalizations to date.

The Health and Social Services Flu Line received 205 calls last week. The Flu Line continues to refer people needing further care to health centres or clinics. The majority of people suffering with the flu in the NWT are experiencing mild to moderate symptoms and have been recovering on their own.

Schools are seeing higher rates of absenteeism, but all NWT schools continue to remain open. Self-isolation continues to be the best way to reduce the spread of the flu between people. Normal social contact between healthy people does not present an increased risk of spreading the flu.

There have been no known H1N1-related deaths in the NWT to date.

## **Developments/Announcements this Week**

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Over 22,000 NWT residents have received the H1N1 vaccine to date. Community and regional health staff and the H1N1 Action Team continue to conduct community flu clinics.

The NWT has received a supply of unadjuvanted vaccine which will be given to women less than 20 weeks pregnant. The Chief Public Health Officer recommends the adjuvanted vaccine for most NWT residents as a more effective measure against H1N1.

All communities in the NWT have received the H1N1 vaccine. The H1N1 vaccination campaign will be completed by November 14, 2009 with drop-in clinics still available for some areas. The seasonal flu campaign is expected to begin in the next couple of weeks

Due to continuing demand, the Department of Health and Social Services is running an additional flu clinic in Yellowknife this week. The flu clinic is located in the old Bank of Montreal location in Centre Square Mall and hours are 10:00-5:30 daily, except November 11<sup>th</sup>.

The Territorial Emergency Response Committee (TERC) continues to coordinate planning and preparedness for potential emergency situations. The main focus of TERC during the H1N1 pandemic



planning has been to offer support to all GNWT departments and other northern emergency management partner agencies within the federal government, private sector and non-governmental organizations in preparing and updating their business continuity plans in the case of essential services interruptions resulting from a potential flu outbreak.

## **Public Information**

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The schedule for administering H1N1 vaccinations across the NWT has been posted to the HSS website and will be updated as necessary.

Information about the H1N1 influenza vaccine has been posted to the HSS website, along with myths and facts about the influenza vaccine.

Advertisements announcing dates and times for local flu clinics continue to run and flu clinic posters have been distributed to communities.

A full range of information on preventing the flu, caring for the sick and taking steps to protect individuals is available on the Health and Social Services website at <http://www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca>.

## **For more information**

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The *Government of the Northwest Territories Influenza Update* is distributed weekly and includes the most recent information on flu activity in the NWT.

For more information about protecting yourself from the flu or about the GNWT's H1N1 plans and activities, please visit the Health and Social Services website at <http://www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca>.

You may also call the Flu Line at 1-888-920-3026 or the Health Line at 1-888-255-1010





# Government of the Northwest Territories Influenza Update

9 October 2009

## Flu Activity this Week

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Public health officials are reporting flu activity in all regions of the Northwest Territories, with active cases identified in 22 of the 33 NWT communities. H1N1 is the only influenza strain circulating in NWT communities at this time.

There have been 9 new cases of NWT residents hospitalized with influenza-like illness (ILI) this week, for a total of 18 hospital cases to date.

The Health and Social Services Flu Line received 82 calls last week and 103 calls this week (Monday-Thursday). The Flu Line continues to refer people needing further care to health centres or clinics. The majority of people suffering with the flu in the NWT are experiencing mild to moderate symptoms and have been recovering on their own.

Schools are seeing higher rates of absenteeism, but all NWT schools continue to remain open. Self-isolation continues to be the best way to reduce the spread of the flu between people. Normal social contact between healthy people does not present an increased risk of spreading the flu.

There have been no known H1N1-related deaths in the NWT to date.

## Developments/Announcements this Week

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Yellowknife Public Health held a flu vaccine clinic in Yellowknife to vaccinate people 65 and over with the seasonal flu vaccine. The seasonal flu vaccine has been distributed to communities across the NWT and vaccination programs for people 65 and over have begun in most communities.

Plans for administering the H1N1 vaccine to all NWT residents beginning in November are being finalized. Further details will be announced next week.

At the conclusion of the H1N1 vaccination, seasonal flu vaccination campaigns for people under the age of 65 will occur in December and January.

## Public Information

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The *Government of the Northwest Territories Influenza Update* is being launched to provide the public with the most up-to-date information about flu activity and GNWT actions on flu. Subsequent Updates





will be issued Mondays to coincide with weekly reporting of flu activity to the Public Health Agency of Canada.

Information on flu prevention and hygiene continues to be distributed through health centres, schools and other locations.

Flu prevention PSAs continue to run on CJCD and CKLB.

Flu prevention ads have been placed on Facebook and on buses in Yellowknife.

A full range of information on preventing the flu, caring for the sick and taking steps to protect individuals is available on the Health and Social Services website at <http://www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca>.

### **For more information**

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The *Government of the Northwest Territories Influenza Update* is distributed weekly and includes the most recent information on flu activity in the NWT.

For more information about protecting yourself from the flu or about the GNWT's H1N1 plans and activities, please visit the Health and Social Services website at <http://www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca>.

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# Government of the Northwest Territories Influenza Update

20 October 2009

## Flu Activity this Week

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Public health officials are reporting flu activity in all regions of the Northwest Territories, with active cases identified in 25 of the 33 NWT communities. H1N1 is the only influenza strain circulating in NWT communities at this time.

There have been 4 new cases of NWT residents hospitalized with H1N1 influenza last week, for a total of 22 lab-confirmed H1N1 hospitalizations to date.

The Health and Social Services Flu Line received 146 calls last week. The Flu Line continues to refer people needing further care to health centres or clinics. The majority of people suffering with the flu in the NWT are experiencing mild to moderate symptoms and have been recovering on their own.

Schools are seeing higher rates of absenteeism, but all NWT schools continue to remain open. Self-isolation continues to be the best way to reduce the spread of the flu between people. Normal social contact between healthy people does not present an increased risk of spreading the flu.

There have been no known H1N1-related deaths in the NWT to date.

## Developments/Announcements this Week

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Dr. Kami Kandola, the Chief Public Health Officer of the NWT, held a press conference on October 14, 2009 to discuss the increasing incidence of ILI in the NWT.

Health and Social Services launched a new web design for the H1N1 webpage. New content include a video from the Chief Public Health Officer.

The H1N1 vaccine has been shipped to the NWT. Once approval is received from Federal Regulators, the CPHO will make an announcement confirming distribution to all NWT communities.

## Public Information

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Video of Dr. Kandola's October 14<sup>th</sup> press conference has been posted to the Health and Social Services website, along with a printed transcript of her remarks and charts showing the incidence of ILI and H1N1 in the NWT.

Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) prepared questions and answers on preventing influenza for organizations and individuals hosting or organizing sporting events. The information was distributed to



territorial and regional sport and recreation associations, including Sport North and the Aboriginal Sport Circle of the Western Arctic. The Q and A will be posted to the HSS website.

A full range of information on preventing the flu, caring for the sick and taking steps to protect individuals is available on the Health and Social Services website at <http://www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca>.

### **For more information**

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The *Government of the Northwest Territories Influenza Update* is distributed weekly and includes the most recent information on flu activity in the NWT.

For more information about protecting yourself from the flu or about the GNWT's H1N1 plans and activities, please visit the Health and Social Services website at <http://www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca>.

You may also call the Flu Line at 1-888-920-3026 or the Health Line at 1-888-255-1010





# Government of the Northwest Territories Influenza Update

27 October 2009

## **Flu Activity this Week**

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Public health officials are reporting the NWT is experiencing the second wave of H1N1 flu activity. Active cases have been identified in 25 of the 33 NWT communities. H1N1 is the only influenza strain circulating in NWT communities at this time.

There have been 8 new cases of NWT residents hospitalized with H1N1 influenza last week, for a total of 30 lab-confirmed H1N1 hospitalizations to date.

The Health and Social Services Flu Line received 241 calls last week. The Flu Line continues to refer people needing further care to health centres or clinics. The majority of people suffering with the flu in the NWT are experiencing mild to moderate symptoms and have been recovering on their own.

Schools are seeing higher rates of absenteeism, but all NWT schools continue to remain open. Self-isolation continues to be the best way to reduce the spread of the flu between people. Normal social contact between healthy people does not present an increased risk of spreading the flu.

There have been no known H1N1-related deaths in the NWT to date.

## **Developments/Announcements this Week**

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Chief Public Health Officer Dr. Kami Kandola gave a presentation on H1N1 to the Dene Leadership Meeting in Dettah on October 20, 2009.

The Government of the Northwest Territories announced the plan for conducting H1N1 immunizations in all NWT communities, following approval of the vaccine by Health Canada on October 21, 2009. The H1N1 immunization campaign will be the largest-ever vaccination campaign in NWT history and Dr. Kandola is urging all NWT residents to get the shot, not the flu.

The official launch of the territory-wide immunization campaign was October 26, 2009. Four mobile H1N1 Action Teams will visit communities across the NWT to ensure as many people can be vaccinated against H1N1 influenza as soon as possible.

The NWT has received 34,000 adjuvanted H1N1 vaccines in one shipment. Unadjuvanted doses for pregnant women are being requested and will be available next week.





The full schedule for community vaccinations is available on the Health and Social Services website at <http://www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca>. The schedule will be updated as necessary, but the plan is to have completed the immunization program by November 21, 2009.

Health and Social Services Minister Sandy Lee and Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs Robert C. McLeod made statements on GNWT H1N1 preparedness and activities in the Legislative Assembly on October 22, 2009.

Minister Sandy Lee welcomed federal Minister of Health Leona Aglukkaq to Yellowknife on October 23, 2009. The Ministers held a press conference to introduce media to the H1N1 Action Teams and demonstrate a mock flu clinic set-up. Ministers addressed the press, along with NWT Chief Public Health Officer Dr. Kami Kandola, Canada's Chief Public Health Officer Dr. David Butler-Jones and Public Health Agency of Canada Assistant Deputy Minister Dr. Danielle Grondin.

## **Public Information**

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Dr. Kami Kandola's H1N1 presentation to the Dene Nation has been posted to the Health and Social Services website.

The schedule for administering H1N1 vaccinations across the NWT has been posted to the HSS website. The schedule will be updated as necessary.

Information about the H1N1 influenza vaccine has been posted to the HSS website, along with myths and facts about the influenza vaccine.

Video updates of the October 23<sup>rd</sup> press conference with Minister Lee, Minister Aglukkaq, Dr. Kami Kandola, Dr. David Butler-Jones and Dr. Danielle Grondin have been posted to the HSS site.

Advertisements announcing dates and times for local flu clinics have begun to run and flu clinic posters have been distributed to communities.

Education, Culture and Employment has provided a letter to schools that will be sent home with students to provide information on the vaccination schedule for their community.

A full range of information on preventing the flu, caring for the sick and taking steps to protect individuals is available on the Health and Social Services website at <http://www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca>.

## **For more information**

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The *Government of the Northwest Territories Influenza Update* is distributed weekly and includes the most recent information on flu activity in the NWT.

For more information about protecting yourself from the flu or about the GNWT's H1N1 plans and activities, please visit the Health and Social Services website at <http://www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca>.

You may also call the Flu Line at 1-888-920-3026 or the Health Line at 1-888-255-1010



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## NWT Leaders to Pursue Shared Political Vision

**DETTAH (November 26, 2009) - Northwest Territories (NWT) leaders will work together to identify and develop a political environment that will allow their governments to work collectively and with one voice in advancing the interests of the NWT and its residents.**

The NWT's regional Aboriginal Government leaders and representatives of the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly, the NWT Association of Communities and the GNWT met in Dettah on Tuesday.

Premier Floyd K. Roland chaired the leaders' discussions. He says the forum will provide a vision and roadmap for future political development in the NWT.

In coming months, leaders will work - in a spirit of mutual respect and recognition, to determine the nature and extent of their future intergovernmental relationships. On Tuesday, they discussed topics such as: the key elements of future political development, who will help shape it, how NWT residents can be engaged and a timeline in which to move forward.

"Realizing the potential of this great Territory is not something that we can leave to any one Government alone. It will take a concerted and collective effort by each and every one of us," said Sahtu Secretariat Chair Ethel Blondin-Andrew.

"In order to provide a recognized, united voice for NWT residents, we must also build a forum in which to develop and strengthen the relationships that exist between our Governments," said Gwich'in Tribal Council President Richard Nerysoo.

Premier Roland says all leaders are led by a common realization. "We will be stronger and more effective governments for our people and their interests when we speak and work together," he said.

### **The following leaders were in attendance Tuesday in Dettah:**

Chief Edward Sangris representing the Akaitcho Territory Government

Grand Chief Joe Rabesca representing the Tłı̄chô Territory Government

Grand Chief Sam Gargan representing the Dehcho First Nations



Paul Harrington representing the Northwest Territory Metis Nation

Ethel Blondin-Andrew representing the Sahtu Secretariat Inc and the Sahtu Dene Council

President Richard Nerysoo representing the Gwich'in Tribal Council

Nellie Cournoyea representing the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation

Gord Van Tighem representing the NWT Association of Communities

Dave Ramsay and David Krutko representing the Members of the 16<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly

Premier Floyd K. Roland representing the Government of the Northwest Territories

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